

This testimony was given by William Broydrick on behalf of Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council. Additional information is available at the Dept. of Justice, Washington, DC.

Assembly Health Committee, Tuesday, July 9th, 2019

Bill Broydrick, in Opposition of the Bill.

TRANSCRIPT OF BILL BROYDRICK'S TESTIMONY

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and good afternoon Members of the Committee.

I'm Bill Broydrick and I represent the Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 677 and suggest an alternative.

A better understanding of latex advancement and benefits will show that the prohibition of *all* latex gloves is unwarranted. The premise upon which the legislation was founded its grounds for the proposed phase out must be reexamined and updated to exclude powder-free low-protein latex gloves from the prohibition. It is of upmost concern to protect glove users and food consumers in the food industry. Latex gloves in the food industry protect against the transmission of contaminants from both users and consumers.

As shown by studies time and again, modern powder-free low-protein latex gloves provide superior barrier protection and high resistance to tearing. Latex gloves can also reseal after a small puncture unlike other gloves. They are still widely used in the food industry and in the performance of surgical and medical procedures. Low protein, powder-free latex gloves are recommended by the FDA, NIOSHA, by OSHA. And in fact, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation finds that only about one percent of us are susceptible to these allergies.

Moreover, the FDA has stated that the data linking latex proteins and foods to allergenic reactions is based on anecdotal evidence and is very weak. Moreover there are no reported deaths caused by latex protein allergies brought through food ingestion. FDA also permits low protein powder-free gloves in medical settings. The legislature's proposed prohibition of all latex gloves will open the market to the use of alternative synthetic gloves which pose health hazards themselves. Some gloves like vinyl can leach out highly toxic chemicals used during their manufacturing process.

In summary, low protein powder-free gloves are the most effective means of barrier protection for glove users in medical and food industries. Again, the FDA has stated that the data linking latex proteins in foods to allergenic reactions is based on anecdotal evidence.

We have provided the Committee Staff with a substitute amendment which would outlaw high powder gloves. The gloves that cause the problem. And caused the problem in the late 80s and 90s. But would allow the continuation of the use of gloves that are low powdered and have had much more success in preventing people from having the allergies.

SOURCE: California State Assembly

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-health-committee-20190709/video>